PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Government had announced new Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 on 26th August, 1987 to stimulate production and ensure adequate availability of life saving drugs to the consumers. Copies of which were placed on the Table of the House. Government have also decided to monitor the prices of decontrolled drugs and have retained the right to bring within control any decontrolled drug at any point of time, if considered necessary.

Implementaton of new DPCO

2271. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new DPCO, 1987 has been implemented, and if so, when the new prices will come into force;

(b) if not, what is holding up the implementation of the order; and

(c) how many companies have so far applied for approval of the new prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SNGH) : (a) to (b). The new DPCO, 1987 came into force from the date of notification i.e. 26th August, 1987. Government have recently reduced the prices of some Category I formulations under DPCO, 1987.

(c) Companies have started submitting applications for price approvals under DPCO, 1987.

New Trade Margin

2272. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new trade margin under DPCO 1987 is considered unworkable by the industry, if so ,whether there is any proposal to revise the new trade margin; and

(b) what is the additional burden of the new trade margin on the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Some representations have been received in this regard and the matter is under examination.

(b) Precise estimates are not available.

Shortage of SAE Grade Engine Oil

2273. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an acute shortage of 50 SAE grade engine oil which is recommended for use by some car manufacturers and reconditioned cars, etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that instead of this grade of oil, multi-grade 20—40 oil is being marketed by non-public sector units;

(c) whether it is a fact that multi-grade 20—50 SAE grade oil is being marketed at Rs. 130|- per tin of 5 litre whereas the public sector units are getting it at around Rs. 80|- per tin of 5 litres; and

(d) what has been the production of SAE 50 during the last three years, year-wise, and reasons for its present shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No serious shortage of 50 SAE Grade Engine Oil which is recommended only for new and reconditioned Fiat and Premier Padmini Cars, has been reported;

(b) Some of the non-public sector oil companies are reported to be marketing mulit-grade 20—40 oils, in line with the demand and|or with SAE 50 grade or specially developed grade oils;